

REMARKS

These remarks are made responsive to the non-final office action mailed June 15, 2007. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 11, and 13-15 have been amended. Claims 2 and 12 have been cancelled.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 3-5, 9 and 13-15 have been amended to overcome the objections to the use of the definite article "the" by replacing with "a." It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 6-8, 10-12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsumoto et al. (US 5,796,428).

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of Squilla et al. (US Patent No. 6,396,537).

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 5, 9, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of Iida et al. (US Patent No. 2004/0008260).

Each of the independent claims has been amended to clarify that selective distribution of the photo vignettes *to recipients* is performed based on the distribution parameter.

For example, claim 1 (and similarly claims 7 and 11) recite:

selectively distributing said digitized photo vignettes to recipients over a communication network in accordance with said photo-distribution parameter.

Matsumoto was relied upon for teaching the distribution parameter. However, the control data of Matsumoto controls how a plurality of images are laid out on a page. (See col. 20, lines 35-37). Such control signal is for controlling the characteristics of the physical display and layout constraints. (See col. 8, lines 13-35). This is not a distribution parameter and in particular, this is not a distribution parameter for selective distribution to recipients. The

other references do not teach or suggest all the elements of the independent claims as interrelated in the claims.

Thus the pending claims are patentable over the cited references.

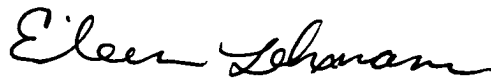
Conclusion

In light of the arguments and amendments presented above, the pending claims as amended are in condition for allowance, and applicants respectfully request a prompt notice of allowance.

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Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of Applicants

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